ICARC NEWSLETTER

July 30 2024

Officers for 2024:
President – Craig Bigler, AB3XA
Vice President - Dylon Curtis KC3WMN
Treasurer - Chris Edwards, N3VFK
Secretary - Chris Edwards, N3VFK

Additional Board Members for 2024
1. John Kalicicki KA2YOS
2. David Steiner W3CDH
3. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
4. Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO
5. Elmer Sorisio, KB3WG
6. Larry Freeman N3LT

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

July 27, 2024: Crucible Walk NVIS rememberance event: 2016 and 2017.

Origins: In 2016 and 2017, the ICARC was asked to provide communications for the Crucible Walk event spanning the entire 70-mile length of the Laurel Highlands hiking trail. Over a period of three days ICARC performed extraordinarily. Members of ICARC planned and executed the operation in some of the most remote and difficult terrain imaginable for a "walk-a-thon". At least one of the locations near a stream crossing in a valley-bottom was so deep and remote that we had to use a Near Vertical Incident Skywave antenna on HF to pass traffic. Using HF, hams were able to transmit runner/walker data to other ham radio operators who then relayed the data by VHF or UHF to central command. The whole experience was very interesting and highly successful.

The ICARC crew also had to use a portable cross-band repeater to extend the range and then after the "walkers" passed a communications and supply station the radio operators and event crew had to leap-frog several miles to the new location and get set up well before any of the "runners" arrived. Club members scouted and practiced for several weeks at great time and personal expense. Members of ICARC gained a great deal of operating and planning skills while helping with the communications for the Crucible Walk. It was an unusual feat of organization and execution, the likes of which, the ICARC has not experienced in years.

Rhine Rd. site Participants: Dave(N3DZ), Bill(KC3ZAF), Cass(N4FLO), Mike(N3ARA), Deryl(KC3YZW), Chris Sorisio (No Call), Robert(KB3JOF), Elmer(KB3WG), Larry(N3LT); Off site Participants: Craig(AB3XA), Ian(KC3DTE)

Report From Cass Fitzgerald:

Last Saturday members of ICARC met at the Rhine Rd Site while other members met near Shelocta to learn and practice skills in Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) propagation of Radio Waves. At the Rhine Road site members put together two amateur radio stations with a total of three antennas. Meanwhile at the Shelocta site a third station was assembled. Three stations assembled with the goal to talk to one another by sending radio waves straight up.

Antennas designed to send the signal up included an end-fed halfwave cut for 40 meters, a Buckmaster, and a hastily put together random wire fed with a 9:1 UNUN. The fourth antenna was a Buddipole Buddistick vertical. All of these antennas had advantages and disadvantages depending on which bands were used.

Of the bands tried on the Last Saturday 80 meters proved useless as no contact was made between the two sites. 40 meters was tried with the random wire working the best of the three antennas at the Rhine Road site. The time was about half past one o'clock in the afternoon. The next band tried was 15 meters with the best antenna being the Buddistick vertical. The two horizontal antennas being about equally poor in signal reports. The last band checked was Six meters with the Buddistick working the best because the other two antennas would not tune up on Six meters.
Why would the vertical work best? Likely because at the higher bands (15 and 6) NVIS does not happen. Signals radiated up pass through the ionosphere and then lost to space. So, on the higher bands signals relies on Groundwave propagation.
Anyway, eleven people participated in the NVIS activity with ICARC at 2 different sites spaced about twelve miles apart.

Hope to see every one in August for the summer picnic and future months on the Last Saturday.

Comment from N3LT: Also there was the contact in hungary (HA5JI) with the makshift antenna,which tells us that it definitely was not acting as an NVIS antenna. The antenna had a minimum swr of 2.3 so although the power was set at 50 watts the actual forward output power was considerabley less.

Take a look at the photos of the event that follow: (Courtwsy of n3lt and ab3xa)

Bill, Cass, Mike, Chris, Robert, Elmer (Left to Right)

What a photo opp! Mike looks happy.

Bill(KC3ZAF) Mike(N3ARA) Robert(KB3JOF)

Hey! we got this guy in Hungary!

Cass(N3FLO) & Dave(N3DZ)

We hear Craig and Ian great on 40 m!

Robert, Deryl & Chris

I don't believe it'll fit like that!

Bill and Dryl(KC3YZW)

Hey, are you sure that guy's calling me?

Chris & Robert

I know I dropped it right here!

Cass & Deryl

I can't believed this worked so well!

Dave, Cass, Mike, Bill, Robert & Deryl

It's cool under the shade!

Ian (operating) & Craig (taking photo)

12 remote miles from the Rhine rd. site

Tribute to a Silent Key, long term President of the Blue Knob Repeater Association (and much more!), Jeff Blake (N8PSU).

Courtesy of Tom Brew, K3WS

Jeffrey Joseph Blake
August 23, 1963-July 23, 2024
Jeffrey Joseph Blake, 60, Altoona, son of the late Roger and Dorothy (Rodkey) Blake was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, teacher, mentor and friend. Jeff was unexpectedly called to God on Tuesday. His father Roger Blake was one of founding members of the Logan Township Supervisors. From a young age, Jeff accompanied his father to the police station and Civil Defense drills, developing a passion for emergency services and radio communications. By the age of 14, Jeff had already made a significant impact as a CPR instructor for the Red Cross, later being honored by President Ronald Reagan with the Young American Medal for Service for his outstanding and unusual recognition for character and service by establishing a disaster response team, and setting up a communication system and performing other significant services for the American Red Cross Chapter in Blair County.
During Jeff's life he wore many hats. He graduated from the Altoona Area Vo-Tech LPN program. He volunteered for the American Red Cross, was fireman and first-responder at Juniata Gap and then became a member of the Grandview Fire department. A long-time fireman, who was instrumental in unifying, Grandview, Kittanning Trail and Juniata Gap, which is now known as Logan Township United Fire Dept., where he was a long term and current president. He was a paramedic for AMED, and he was an instructor and board member for SAEMS, dispatcher for Logan base and later joining the newly

formed county 911 center and an athletic trainer at Altoona Area High School. Jeff was actively involved in many community organizations volunteering his time to help as many people as he possibly could. He was a founding and lifetime member of the Logan Township United Fire Department, Blue Knob Repeater Club, and astute member of the Juniata Gap Board, assistant chief in Juniata Gap QRS, founding member of the Keystone Search and Rescue as well as Logan Townships, Emergency Management Coordinator.

Despite his numerous achievements Jeff's greatest success in life was in 1987 when he married the love of his life Christina Kinney. From their love they had two children; a son, Adam of Johnstown and daughter Megan Watt (Phillip) of Aurora, OH.

Their first born, Adam, born in 1989, followed in his father's footsteps, earning emergency medical certifications. Jeff was immensely proud to share his knowledge and experiences with Adam. One of the greatest joys in his life was watching his son become a father to Grayson Blake. Jeff took Grayson to every haircut and saw him off to the bus every first day of school. Jeff's work ethic, tenacity and grit can be proudly seen in how his son, Adam, is raising his beloved grandson Grayson.

Jeff and Chrissy's daughter, Megan, born in 1993, was the light of Jeff's life. His pride in her accomplishments and his loving support will be remembered as some of his most treasured moments.

Jeff and Megan loved to laugh, but one of the ways they loved to communicate was through music.

Megan found her voice because of her dad and their love of singing in the car, living room and around the campfire on nights with just the family. Megan gave birth to Jeff's two youngest grandsons: Wesley and Oliver. Jeff loved taking them to use his ham radio on Sundays and taking the boys for boat rides.

In Jeff's strife to be the best husband, father and provider he and his wife Chrissy built the greatest part of his legacy, spending many years in Deep Creek Lake, Maryland, boating with his immediate and lake family. Throughout their life they traveled the world as two best friends striving to have the best experience and memories together. Working many jobs, late hours, long days, and no sleep, with the unwavering support of his beautiful and loving wife Chrissy, Jeff received his bachelor's degree from Penn State University in 1998. His amazing gift for gab led him to the field of pharmaceutical sales where Jeff quickly found the perfect place to focus his talents. With hard work he rose to one of the nation's top sales representatives year after year and was a five-time Presidents Club winner and Hall of famer for Teva Pharmaceuticals, where over the years he created many lasting relationships with his once colleagues, now friends.

Jeff's love for his family was boundless. He and Chrissy created a home full of joy and affection. Their love was a testament to their commitment to one another, leaving no "I love you" unsaid, no kiss unplanted, and no message unsent. He took every sunset boat cruise with his wife and made the most of every moment.

Jeffrey Joseph Blake's life was a model of selfless service, unwavering dedication, and deep familial love. He leaves behind his beloved wife Chrissy; his children Adam and Megan; grandchildren: Grayson, Wesley and Oliver; his son-in-law, Phillip; mother-in-law and father-in-law Barbara "Gringle" and Olav Johansen; brother, Dennis of Texas and his beautiful niece, Marsha Turchetta (Greg); numerous brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and countless friends and colleagues who were touched by his generous spirit.

He was preceded in death by his parents Roger and Dorothy (Rodkey) Blake and his brother "Iron" Mike Blake.

His legacy of service, love, and devotion will continue to inspire all who knew him.

~~Friends will be received from 3-8 PM on Monday, July 29, 2024 at The Stevens Mortuary, Inc., 1421 8th Ave, Altoona, PA 16602.~~ (strikethrough by the editor due to late publication) A funeral service outside of Mass will be held at 10:30 am on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, 806 11th St., Altoona, PA 16602 by the Franciscan Fathers. Committal will be held at Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to his brothers and sisters at Logan Township United Fire Department at 611 Grandview Rd. Altoona Pa, 16601.

Condolences may be made at www.stevensfamilyfuneralhomes.com or on Stevens Family Funeral Homes Facebook. http://stevensfamilyfuneralhomes.com/

Reminder: The ICARC Public Service and Information Net will continue on Monday night starting at 8:30 PM using the W3BMD repeater on 146.91/146.31 Mhz. (ICARC is an ARRL affliated club)

Reminder: The ICARC meetings are scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month; next meeting is August 6, 2024 at the Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you there.

OTHER HAM RADIO NEWS:

Another Silent Key; exerpt of message sent by:

SB SPCL @ ARL $ARLX006

ARLX006 ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director Jeff Beals, WA4AW (SK)
ZCZC AX06
QST de W1AW
Special Bulletin 6 ARLX006
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT July 24, 2024
To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX006
ARLX006 ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director Jeff Beals, WA4AW (SK)

The Vice Director of the ARRL Southeastern Division, Jeffrey J. "Jeff" Beals, WA4AW, has become a Silent Key. He died on July 20, 2024. Beals, who was born in 1951, devoted a lifetime of service to amateur radio, having served in many local clubs, the ARRL Field Organization, and on the ARRL Board of Directors. He was also elected Vice President of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) in 2023.

Beals was first licensed at the age of 12 in the early 1960s in his native Long Beach, New York. He was active with the local 5 Towns Radio Club and Nassau County Amateur Radio Emergency Service and RACES. He even had a 2-meter radio on his bicycle. He held Amateur Extra Class and First-Class Radiotelephone licenses from the FCC.

His service with amateur radio emergency communications included serving as Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Southern Florida Section, Assistant SEC, District Emergency Coordinator for the Gold Coast District, Emergency Coordinator and County RACES Officer for Lee and Palm Beach Counties. He was also a member of the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee. He was certified at all levels of ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses, public relations training, and advanced FEMA training.
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Beals is survived by his wife, Myra Kitchen, K3PGH. Donations in memory of Jeff Beals may be made to the ARRL Diamond Club, a fund which supports ARRL. A memorial service will be held Friday, July 26, at 11:00 AM at The Beth Israel Memorial Chapel, 11115 Jog Road, Boynton Beach, Florida 33437.
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Attention: If other ICARC members would like to contribute to this Newsletter, please contact or submit articles to the Newsletter editor, N3LT via email at n3lt@aarrl.net or wd4hoz@gmail.com by the middle of each month. Preferred document format is **.doc** . All submissions are subject to approval for publication by the editor.